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CIVIC PLAZA

1800 West Old Shakopee Road,  
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CREEKSIDE COMMUNITY  
CENTER

9801 Penn Avenue South,  
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HUMAN SERVICES  
@BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV

## STEPPING UP TO HELP COMMUNITIES HUMAN SERVICES PARTNERS WITH LOCAL NONPROFIT

Used shoes can do a lot more than collect dust in the closet. They can be a means to make a difference in your neighborhood.

Shoe Away Hunger, part of the Good in the 'Hood organization, takes donations of new or gently used shoes and sells them for dollars a pair. All proceeds from these sales provide food to people in need through another Good in the 'Hood program, Feeding the Future. Shoe Away Hunger partners with food shelves and other community outreach programs such as Fare For All, a food purchasing program that saves customers up to 40 percent on brand-name groceries. Human Services coordinated some Fare For All and Shoe Away Hunger distribution events in 2016.

A group of high school students made their way to Creekside Community Center during a mission trip to volunteer with Shoe Away Hunger this year. Their trip also included cleaning houses, assembling meals at Feed My Starving Children and performing yard work for those who cannot do it themselves all over the country.

“When I heard about this mission trip I thought it would be a great way to give back,” said Samantha Howe, a sophomore in high school.

“We’ve made stops in Iowa, Nashville, Kansas and all around the Twin Cities.”

Donate new or gently used footwear, including sneakers, sports shoes, casual shoes, boots, flip flops, or ice skates to Shoe Away Hunger, at Schuler Shoes, 7971 Southtown Center, or any other Twin Cities Schuler Shoes location. Tie or bind shoes together and place them in a plastic bag. If you are planning to drop off more than 50 pairs of shoes, call ahead at 612-440-7463.



### APPLICATION ASSISTANCE AT CREEKSIDE

MNSure assisters from Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin County will be available Mondays, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., at Creekside to offer assistance with Minnesota Health Insurance Exchange and MNSure applications. These applications determine eligibility for medical assistance, MNCare, advanced premium tax credits and qualified health care plans. Application assistance for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and emergency assistance will also be available. To schedule an appointment, contact CAPSH at 952-933-9639. For all other information, contact Human Services at 952-563-4944, TTY 952-563-4933.







This family came out for some fun and flying at Kite Day, one of Human Services’ annual events.

## HUMAN SERVICES AT A GLANCE

Human Services provides support to low-income individuals and families, multicultural communities, youth, older adults, people with disabilities and people who are homeless.

Our vision is to strengthen the quality of life of Bloomington citizens by addressing relevant community issues through its expertise, resources and partnerships.

Our mission is to assure human services needs are met through the engagement of Bloomington residents.



## REACHING BROADER COMMUNITIES

Human Services is now partnering with Univision Minnesota to better communicate local services, events and activities to the city’s Hispanic community. The new partnership will help promote a variety of community events. To learn more, visit [blm.mn/humanservices](http://blm.mn/humanservices).

## SHARE YOUR STORY

Whether you have volunteered with us, are one of our partner organizations, attended one of our events or benefitted from one of our services, we want to hear from you! Share your Human Services experience at [blm.mn/hsstory](http://blm.mn/hsstory).



## CENTENARIAN SPENDS DECADES VOLUNTEERING

Throughout her more than 20 years volunteering at Creekside, Freda White has made significant contributions to her community and created many memories and friendships along the way. In 2016, White marked a new milestone at Creekside when she celebrated her 100th birthday, *above*.

White began her career as a volunteer in the early 1990s at the Creekside Boutique, a one-stop shop for all things handmade. She soon became the leader of the boutique, where she helped other volunteers greet customers. White also led tours of the facility for newcomers and created programs such as Movie Mondays.

If you ask White, volunteering is not only a great way to give back to the community, but an opportunity to get to know new people.

During her decades spending time at Creekside, many programs have come and gone. Although things continue to change, White is never afraid to try her hand at something new. Her most recent volunteer adventure has been with the Needleworkers, where she learned to crochet baby blankets that are donated to local human services nonprofit agencies.

Are you a Human Services volunteer? Share your experience with us! To submit your story, visit [blm.mn/hsstory](http://blm.mn/hsstory).

## VOLUNTEER FOR HUMAN SERVICES

Human Services worked with more than 330 volunteers in 2015 with more than 31,300 hours of service on the books valued at \$788,936. Volunteering is fun, rewarding and promotes a strong quality of life. Human Services has a variety of volunteer positions and can assist in finding opportunities. To learn more about how to get involved, contact Human Services at 952-563-4944, TTY 952-563-4933 or [humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov).



## OLMSTEAD PLAN HOUSING AND SERVICES

Human Services partnered with Arc Greater Twin Cities to host an event featuring a panel discussion about the Olmstead Plan: Housing and Services in November.

Olmstead Plan Housing and Services provides people with disabilities the opportunity to make an informed choice to live in an integrated setting. People are able to choose where they live, with whom and in what type of housing.

Attendees also learned about the history of the Olmstead Act and received details about the Minnesota Olmstead Plan. For information on all aspects of Minnesota’s Olmstead Plan, visit [www.dhs.state.mn.us/olsmtead](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/olsmtead).



## CELEBRATING AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE

In November, the Human Rights Commission honored American Indian heritage month by hosting an event featuring Native American speaker Dr. Don Bartlette and sponsoring the “Why Treaties Matter” exhibit at Civic Plaza. The exhibit explored Dakota and Ojibwe Indian Nations and their relationship with the U.S. government in Minnesota and how treaties affected the lands of these indigenous people then and now.



## SIGN UP FOR E-SUBSCRIBE

To receive updates on Human Services’ programs, community events and services, sign up for E-Subscribe. This free subscription service sends email and wireless notifications when updates to City web pages you are interested in are posted. To receive email updates about current Human Services’ news and events, visit the City’s website at [blm.mn/esubscribe](http://blm.mn/esubscribe) and subscribe to “Human Services.” Sign up from your home computer or visit the computer lab at Creekside Community Center.





## AND THE WINNER IS ...

**N**ormandale Community College was selected as the 2016 Omar Bonderud Award recipient. The Omar Bonderud Award is presented by the Bloomington Human Rights Commission to an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to ensuring the rights of people in Bloomington.

Normandale was nominated for the work of the President's Council on Diversity as part of the College's Diversity and Inclusiveness Campus Series. Some of these events include presentations that were free and open to the public, such as LGBTQIA Topics in School and Work, Interfaith Panel, (Trans) Gender 101, "A Peace of My Mind" National Exhibit, and showings of "Last Chance for Eden" and the "Color of Fear."

These programs increase awareness, address biases known and unknown, and promote acceptance, understanding, and mutual respect.

Omar Bonderud was the first Chairperson of the Bloomington Human Rights Commission, formed in 1968.



## THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

**H**uman rights affect the happiness, health and prosperity of a community. Safeguarding these rights is important. The Human Rights Commission aids and advises the City Council in ensuring that all citizens have equal opportunity in employment, housing, public accommodations, public services and education and in other affairs that affect the social well-being of the community.

## HAVE YOU BEEN TREATED ILLEGALLY?

**T**he law says that you cannot be treated differently in certain areas because of some characteristics. For instance, you can't be treated differently in employment because of your race. For a chart of protected classes, visit the City's website at [blm.mn/hrc](http://blm.mn/hrc). If you feel you have been discriminated against, contact the Bloomington Human Rights Commission at 952-563-8733, TTY 952-563-8740 or [humanrights@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:humanrights@BloomingtonMN.gov).

## ADVANCING RACIAL EQUITY THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

**T**he City of Bloomington, along with 11 other government entities around Minnesota, is attending a year-long Advancing Racial Equity Training through the Local Regional Government Alliance on Race and Equity. The training provides an introduction to the role, responsibilities and opportunities for government to advance racial equity.

The Human Rights Commission's resource library materials are being used by City employees to gain an understanding of the role of government in relation to racial equity. Members of the community also have access to these resources. The first featured selection included:

"RACE - The Power of an Illusion," a three-part documentary series that features "The Difference Between Us" – a presentation of contemporary science that challenges our assumptions about human groups, "The Story We Tell" – an exploration of the roots of the race concept and "The House We Live In" – 40 years after the Civil Rights Movement and the playing field is still not level.

The video series can be checked out through the Bloomington Human Rights Commission and is also available on YouTube.

Human Rights Commission library materials are available for use at no cost. Materials may be checked out between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, for a two-week period. For more information, contact 952-563-8733, TTY, hearing impaired only, 952-563-8740.

Watch for future recommendations to learn more about racial equity in upcoming editions of the *Briefing*.

## NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

**M**ore than 120 people from 38 countries around the world came together in September for the third naturalization ceremony to take place at Bloomington Civic Plaza. This year, the City streamed part of the ceremony live on Facebook. The City also produced an overview video of the event for its news program Bloomington Today. Watch the video at [blm.mn/ncbt](http://blm.mn/ncbt).

## FREE NATURALIZATION TEST TUTORING

**F**ree tutoring is provided by a Human Services volunteer to assist individuals in preparing for the naturalization test to become an American citizen. Study supplies will be provided. For more information, contact Human Services at 952-563-4944, TTY 952-563-4933.

## MEET YOUR YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

**T**he Human Rights Commission advises the City Council to ensure all citizens have equal opportunity in employment, housing, public accommodations, public services and education and in other affairs that affect the social well-being of Bloomington. Two commissioners are also Bloomington high school students.

Daniela Kunkel, *left*, is a senior at Jefferson and keeps a full plate of extracurricular activities, including her position as a youth commissioner on the Human Rights Commission. Her Latina heritage has shaped who she is and she is proud to share her culture with others. Daniela was interested in becoming a youth commissioner because of her interest in educating residents of Bloomington not only of their rights, but of the diversity of the city.

Savannah Salato, *right*, has a passion for human rights issues. She wanted to become a youth commissioner in hopes to make a difference within her community. Savannah was elected second vice-chairperson in May 2016. She is a junior at Kennedy High School and acts as liaison to the student body.







## REMEMBERING THE VIETNAM WAR

The City plans to take an active role in remembering the Vietnam War and honoring its veterans in the coming years. In September, the City Council accepted an invitation from the Office of the Deputy Chief Management Officer of the U.S. Department of Defense to become a commemorative partner for the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

Through this partnership, the City made a three-year commitment to hold at least two events annually honoring Vietnam veterans from 2016 – 2018. Committee members include representatives from the American Legion, VFW, Bloomington Historical Society, Martin Luther Campus, Northwestern Health Sciences University, and residents who are Vietnam era veterans. Mayor Gene Winstead is the honorary chairperson of the partnership.

Human Services has been recognizing veterans annually since 2008 with a photo wall, recognition breakfast or lunch, historical presentations and VA benefit workshops.

For more information or to serve on the committee, contact the Human Services Division at 952-563-4944, TTY 952-563-4933 or [humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov).



## TAX PREPARATION

Free tax preparation services will be available for those who meet income guidelines Tuesday, January 24 – Saturday, April 15. For more information, contact Human Services 952-563-4944, TTY 952-563-4933 or visit Creekside Community Center.



## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2017

Human Services' special events are your ticket to exploring different cultures, savoring good food and enjoying a wide variety of learning and entertainment options. Events take place at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, or Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, where noted below. For more information on these activities, visit the Human Services website at [blm.mn/humanservices](http://blm.mn/humanservices).



### JANUARY

#### CELEBRATING THE "SECOND FOUNDING"

Following the Civil War, the U.S. abolished slavery with the adoption of the 13th Amendment in 1865. The 14th Amendment guaranteed citizenship to the newly freed slaves and anyone born in the U.S. in 1868. In 1870, the 15th Amendment was adopted to protect the rights of citizens to vote regardless of race, color or previous condition of servitude. Together these three amendments have been called the "Second Founding." This year's Open Doors to Federal Court project will focus on the unfinished work of breathing life into these three transformational Constitutional Amendments.

The U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota and Normandale Community College will cosponsor a community event Tuesday, January 31, 6:30 p.m., at Normandale, to explore these Amendments and celebrate as part of the nationwide initiative, the "Second Founding."

#### NEW U OF M CLASSES AT CREEKSIDE

Human Services is partnering with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) to offer three courses at Creekside Community Center. OLLI is a program through the University of Minnesota that provides courses on a wide variety of topics including literature, history, science and more. Course registration will begin January 2. For more information, contact Human Services at 952-563-4944, TTY 952-563-4933.

### MAY

#### LET'S GO FLY A KITE

This family-friendly event celebrates Bloomington's children with kite flying, entertainment, inflatables, interactive and educational booths and more. This annual event takes place at Valley View Playfield in Bloomington

and continues to grow each year. Human Services is seeking community members who want to get involved in the Kite Day planning process. For more information, call 952-563-4944, TTY 952-563-4933 or visit the City's website at [blm.mn/kite](http://blm.mn/kite).

### AUGUST

#### RECOGNIZE EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN RIGHTS WORK

In honor of the first chairperson of the Bloomington Human Rights Commission, the Omar Bonderud Award recognizes individuals or organizations that do excellent work to ensure all Bloomington residents enjoy basic human rights. Applications and nominations will be accepted beginning in August. To apply or nominate someone for this award, visit [blm.mn/bonderud](http://blm.mn/bonderud) or pick up an application at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, or Creekside, 9801 Penn Avenue South. The City Council will name the 2017 recipient in December.



### JUNE

#### PLANT EXCHANGE

Exchange, donate or adopt a plant at Human Services' second annual plant exchange in June. A master gardener will also be available to answer questions and help you cultivate your green thumb. The location of the event will be announced in 2017. The plant exchange is planned in partnership with the Bloomington Farmer's Market.

### NOVEMBER

#### VETERANS DAY EVENTS

Each year, Human Services hosts a veteran's event to celebrate and honor active duty and retired servicemen and servicewomen. There will be a veteran's photo wall at Civic Plaza and Creekside through November. For a full list of events and activities, visit the City's website at [blm.mn/veterans](http://blm.mn/veterans).

#### SHARE IN THE FEAST

Human Services partners with Good in the 'Hood, Bloomington Covenant Church and Atonement Lutheran Church to provide and serve a traditional Thanksgiving meal in November each year. Visit the City's website for more information at [blm.mn/shareinthe Feast](http://blm.mn/shareinthe Feast).